

What is claimed is:

1. A bulb insertion structure of a vehicular lamp comprising:
 - a plurality of fixing protrusions formed on an outer periphery of a rear end
 - 5 portion of a cylindrical socket fixture fixed in a bulb insertion hole of a reflector;
 - a plurality of engaging protrusions formed on an outer periphery of a focus ring provided on a bulb and corresponding to the fixing protrusions; and
 - a cup-shaped socket covering the outer periphery of the socket fixture from the rear, the cup-shaped socket incorporating a spring for pressing forward the rear
 - 10 end portion of the accommodated bulb, and having an outer peripheral wall provided with, at multiple locations corresponding to the fixing protrusions, an engaging notch for holding the engaging protrusion and the fixing protrusion overlapped together, wherein
 - the engaging notch is provided with an engaging recess portion for holding
 - 15 the engaging protrusion in the engaging notch when the cup-shaped socket is pulled out from the socket fixture, characterized in that
 - a slit, which extends continuously from the engaging recess portion of the engaging notch in a circumferential direction, is formed of a size that allows the engaging protrusion and the fixing protrusion only to pass therethrough separately.
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2. The bulb insertion structure of the vehicular lamp according to claim 1, characterized in that a depth of the engaging recess portion is formed generally identical to a thickness of the engaging protrusion.
- 25 3. The bulb insertion structure of the vehicular lamp according to claim 1, characterized in that both a cap of the bulb provided with the focus ring and the socket are made of metal, and the socket is integrally covered with a detachable socket cover made of synthetic resin, an outer periphery of which is provided with a protrusion for a fingerhold.
- 30 4. The bulb insertion structure of the vehicular lamp according to claim 2, characterized in that both a cap of the bulb provided with the focus ring and the socket are made of metal, and the socket is integrally covered with a detachable socket cover

made of synthetic resin, an outer periphery of which is provided with a protrusion for a fingerhold.

5. An apparatus comprising:

5 a cylindrical socket fixture having a plurality of fixing protrusions formed on an outer periphery of a rear end portion and fixed in position;

a focus ring having a plurality of engaging protrusions formed on an outer periphery and corresponding to the fixing protrusions, said focus ring suitable for accommodating a bulb;

10 a cup-shaped socket to cover the outer periphery of the socket fixture and having an outer peripheral wall provided with a plurality of engaging notches, corresponding to the fixing protrusions, to hold the fixing protrusion and the engaging protrusion overlapped together,

wherein the engaging notch is characterized by a sliding slit, said sliding slit
15 having a size that allows the fixing protrusion and the engaging protrusion only to pass therethrough separately; and

a spring mounted in the cup-shaped socket to urge a rear end portion of the bulb out of the cup-shaped socket.

20 6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the engaging notch is further characterized by the sliding slit extending from a guiding slit to an engaging recess portion and a protrusion latching portion opposite the engaging recess portion.

7. The apparatus of claim 6

25 wherein the engaging recess portion is arranged to hold the engaging protrusion in the engaging notch when the cup-shaped socket is pulled out from the socket fixture, and

wherein the protrusion latching portion is arranged to hold the engaging protrusion and the fixing protrusion in an overlapped relationship when the
30 cup-shaped socket is coupled to the socket fixture.

8. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the guiding slit is arranged to receive the fixing protrusion or the engaging protrusion.

9. A method comprising:

engaging at least one engaging protrusion on a periphery of a focus ring with a corresponding engaging recess portion of an engaging notch on a cup-shaped socket;

aligning at least one fixing protrusion on a periphery of a socket fixture fixed
5 in position with a sliding slit of a corresponding engaging notch wherein the sliding slit is characterized by having a size that allows the fixing protrusion and the engaging protrusion to only pass therethrough separately;

rotating the cup-shaped socket to slide the fixing protrusion along the sliding slit and then to overlap the engaging protrusion; and

10 urging the overlapped fixing protrusion and engaging protrusion into a protrusion latching portion opposite the engaging recess portion.

10. A method comprising:

engaging at least one engaging protrusion on a periphery of a focus ring with a
15 corresponding protrusion latching portion of an engaging notch on a cup-shaped socket, said focus ring accommodating a bulb;

aligning at least one fixing protrusion on a periphery of a socket fixture fixed in position with a guiding slit of a corresponding engaging notch;

pressing the socket fixture forward against a force to align the fixing
20 protrusion with a sliding slit that connects to the protrusion latching portion and the engaging protrusion engages an engaging recess portion of the engaging notch that is opposite to the protrusion latching portion,

wherein the sliding slit is characterized by having a size that allows the fixing protrusion and the engaging protrusion only to pass therethrough separately;

25 rotating the cup-shaped socket to slide the fixing protrusion along the sliding slit and then to overlap the engaging protrusion; and

releasing the force so that the overlapped fixing protrusion and fixing protrusion are engaged with the protrusion latching portion.

30 11. The method of claim 10, further comprising:

pressing the socket fixture forward against the force to engage the overlapped fixing protrusion and engaging protrusion with the engaging recess portion and align the fixing protrusion with the sliding slit;

rotating the cup-shaped socket to slide the fixing protrusion along the sliding slit and then to align with the guiding slit wherein the engaging protrusion is held in the engaging recess portion; and

5 releasing the force to push the cup-shaped socket away from the socket fixture.